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WET AND DRY MASSACHUSETTS

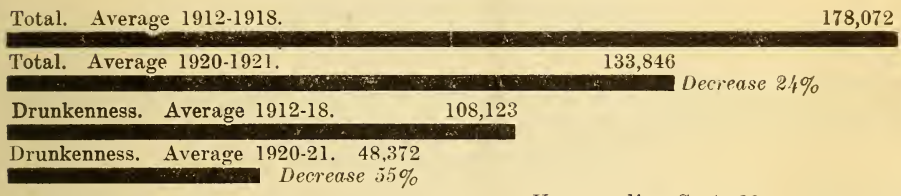
By CORA FRANCES STODDARD
Secretary of the Scientific Temperance Federation, Boston, Mass.

[The following pages present a few facts from a 54-page report, "Wet and Dry Years in a Decade of Massachusetts Public Records," which compares the "wet" and "dry" years of a decade from statistics largely compiled from public records. Pages named refer to pages of this report.]

FROM LOCK-UP TO MOVIES

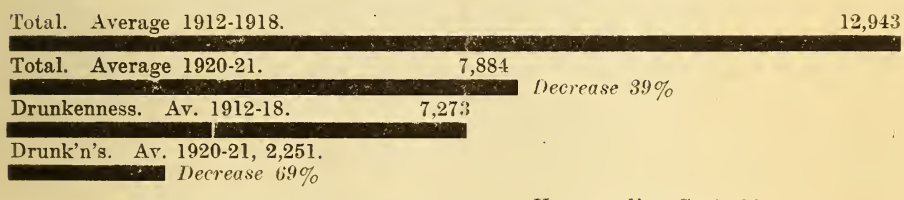
The chief of police on Christmas day saw coming with their families from a local theatre a dozen men, sober and well dressed, whom, at Christmas in the years before prohibition, he regularly had in the local jail for drunkenness.—*From a Massachusetts town (p. 48.)*

ARRESTS IN MASSACHUSETTS



Years ending Sept. 30.
—Mass Dept. Corrections.

ARRESTS OF WOMEN IN MASSACHUSETTS



Years ending Sept. 30.
—Mass. Dept. Corrections.

Arrests of women for drunkenness reduced more than two-thirds. P. 14.

The women drunkards who used to be sent to Boston City Hospital from cheaper hotels and dance halls have nearly disappeared. P. 29.

ARRESTS IN BOSTON

	AVERAGE 1912-18	AVERAGE 1920-21	DECREASE
Drunkenness	59,308	26,393	55%
Foreign-born	27,771	10,219	63%
Non-resident	28,091	8,526	69%
Offences vs. person	4,068	3,408	16%
Offences vs. property with violence	589	598	†1%
Offences vs. property without violence	4,352	3,824	12%
Malicious offences vs. property	203	122	39%
Offences vs. chastity	2,467	1,671	32%
Total Arrests*	90,079	65,489	27%

*Includes foregoing items and miscellaneous arrests not tabulated such as those for violating traffic, sanitary or automobile laws, arrests of suspicious persons, etc. Pp. 9 and 12. †Increase.

Years ending Nov. 30.
—Boston Police Department.

ARRESTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN BOSTON

Neglected, Wayward, Delinquent

Av. 1912-1918 — 3,124

2,484 — *Decrease 20%*

Children Under 15 Years of Age

Av. 1912-18. — 2,426

1,818 — *Decrease 25%*

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Av. 1912-18 663 } Arrests
Av. 1920-21 436 } Minors for Drunkenness. *Decrease 34%.*

Years ending Nov. 30.
—Boston Police Department.

"Juvenile delinquency is conspicuously due to better conditions in the homes resulting from prohibition." P. 21.

NEGLECTED CHILDREN

Before Massachusetts Lower Courts

Av. 1912-1918 — 1,005

Av. 1920-21 — 785 — *Decrease 22%*

Before Boston Juvenile Court

Av. 1912-18, 118

Av. 1920-21, 56. *Decrease 52%.*

Years ending Sept. 30.
—Mass. Dept. of Corrections.

DRUNKENNESS IN PARENTS

Of Neglected and Dependent Children Admitted Boston Division Child Welfare

	TOTAL 1912-1918	TOTAL 1920-21
Drunken father	19 children in each 100	1 in each 100
Drunken mother	5 " " " "	0
Both parents drunken	4 " " " "	Only 1 case among 480 children

—Boston Child Welfare Department. P. 21.

Probation officers find that school attendance improves; children are better fed, better clothed, even in the 1922 winter of industrial depression. Pp. 20, 21.

BOSTON WAYFARERS LODGE FOR MEN

Lodgings Furnished

Av. 1912-18 — 37,511

Av. 1920-21, 11,762

Meals Furnished

Av. 1912-18 — 55,506

Av. 1920-21 — 24,025

Unemployment was worst in 1921 of any year in the decade.

Hard Winters

	AV. NO. LODGINGS PER MONTH	AV. NO. MEALS PER MONTH
5 mos ending May 1, 1915	18,144	19,044
3 mos. ending Apr. 1, 1922	2,868	7,575

—Boston Overseers of Poor.

FROM PATCHING TO CONSTRUCTING

One fact stands out above all others. Intemperance under prohibition has been a decreasing factor in the work of the Family Welfare Society. It has thus been possible for the organization to undertake a great amount of constructive and preventive work instead of wasting time trying to alleviate suffering which could not fail to exist under such an evil as licensed liquor selling.—STOCKTON RAYMOND, *General Secretary, Boston Family Welfare Society (formerly Associated Charities) p. 49.*

BOSTON FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY‡

	YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30				ENDING APR. 30	
Percentage of intemperance	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921*	1922
in cases helped (p. 25)	27	20	10.6	2.5	2.5	4.1

*7 months. ‡Formerly Associated Charities.

STATE FARM, MASSACHUSETTS

Until Prohibition, this was "one of the most populous prison farms for drunkards and vagrants in the United States."[1] Drunkards committed are confirmed drunkards.

Commitments for Drunkenness

Years ending Sept. 30

Av. 1912-18 2,483

Av. 1920-21, 344. *Decrease 86%*

Prison Population Sept. 30

Av. 1912-18 1,258

Av. 1920-21, 345. *Decrease 72%*

Almshouse Ward Population Apr. 1

Av. 1913-19, 457

Av. 1921-22, 282. *Decrease 38%*

[1]R. W. Kelso, former Secy. Mass. State Board of Charities.
"Any loss of population at the State Farm is almost entirely due to decreased drunkenness." Pp. 15 and 42.

—MASS. DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS.

PAUPERISM IN MASSACHUSETTS ALMSHOUSES

Supported by Cities and Towns

Av. 1912-1918 14,271

Av. 1920-21 8,566. *Decrease 39%*

Supported by State

Av. 1912-18 8,267

Av. 1920-21 4,618. *Decrease 44%*

Years ending Mar. 31.
—MASS. DEPT. PUBLIC WELFARE.

WASHINGTONIAN HOME

Alcoholic Admissions

Annual av. 1912-1918 (7 wet years) 955
Annual av. 1920-1921 (2 prohibition years) 552

A large state hospital for inebriates admitting about as many as the Washingtonian Home, and 10 small hospitals for inebriates have closed. P. 29.

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DEATHS FROM ALCOHOLISM

Massachusetts

Av. 1913-18 225

Av. 1920-21 78.

Decrease 65%

Boston

Av. 1913-18 134

Av. 1920-21 50.

Decrease 62%

Boston Women

Av. 1913-18, 33

Av. 1920-21, 6.

Decrease 80%

"Evidently bad liquor does not kill so many as we have been led to suppose."
—Dr. Richard Cabot, *in Foreword to Rept.*, p. 3.

DEATHS IN MASSACHUSETTS

	Av. 1913-18	Av. 1920-21	Decrease
Alcoholism	225	78	65%
Homicides	107	93	13%
Suicide	489	432	11%
	Av. 1912-17	Av. 1920-21	
Cirrhosis of liver	308	178	42%
Tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 pop	10.4	8.3	
General death rate per 1,000 pop	14.73	13.11*	

DEATHS IN BOSTON

General death-rate per 1,000 pop	16.31	14.46*
Infant death-rate pr. 1,000 live regist'r'd births	106.02	89.03*

*The 1921 rate was the lowest on record.
—Mass. and Boston Records of Vital Statistics.

ADMISSIONS OF ALCOHOLIC INSANITY IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Av. 1912-18 340

Av. 1920-21 126

Percentage of Alcoholic Insanity Among All Admissions

Av. 1912-1918, 10.35
Av. 1920-1921, 4.24

Years ending Sept. 30
—Mass. State Board of Insanity.

FROM A FOREWORD TO THE REPORT

Robert A. Woods: The object of this inquiry into public records is highly important; it provides the large perspective in which the whole matter must be viewed. . . . It will serve effectively to adjourn the discussion of the subject from the region of casual impression and hearsay to that of the comprehensive and total facts. And it can leave no doubt in the open mind as to what the facts down to date are. P. 3.

FROM
WET AND DRY YEARS IN A DECADE OF MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC RECORDS
By Cora Frances Stoddard, *Secretary of the Scientific Temperance Federation*
54 pp., 110 tables covering ten successive years, 1912-1921

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